

**Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations  
Hearing on “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: Implementation in  
the Wake of Administration Delay”  
July 18, 2013**

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Since ACA was signed into law three years ago, we have only seen the law’s failure to deliver on its promises.

Two weeks ago, the Obama administration announced it would delay implementation and reporting requirements for the mandate in the Affordable Care Act which requires employers to provide insurance or pay a penalty.

While the Administration attempted to bury their announcement in the midst of the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday, they have only further proved that the President’s signature law is not ready for primetime.

This announcement simply adds to a long list of provisions in the law that the Administration has delayed or postponed. Not to mention the provisions that have been so onerous and burdensome for business and consumers that Congress has already stepped in and repealed them altogether.

Not only is the law filled with broken promises, but the July 4<sup>th</sup> announcement directly contradicts statements that Administration officials have made before this Committee.

I have been told, time and time again, by officials from the agencies in charge of implementing the Affordable Care Act, that it would “definitely” be ready to go live on October 1, 2013.

So—where was the disconnect?

When did the Administration start thinking about delaying the reporting provisions?

Who discussed this delay? Were memos circulated within the departments? Were there secret meetings with the White House?

OR—is this just an attempt by the Administration to use perverse incentives to boost enrollment in their exchanges?

Furthermore, within the Administration's embarrassing admission of delay, they acknowledge the difficulty of getting verification systems up and running. So instead, the administration will rely on an honor system for reporting.

So what happens if they get it wrong?

The Administration has given a break to big business – allowing them to delay reporting compliance with the law.

What about the individuals that still must comply with the mandate to purchase health coverage? Do they get a delay?

While the White House, Treasury, and HHS continue to report that “everything is working like it's supposed to” and “they will definitely be ready”, the American people are left hanging in the balance.

Thank you and I yield back.